Voices With Purpose

Use context and delivery choices to prepare a meaningful recitation.

8.P.CP.2.e "Build background knowledge by reciting all or part of significant poems and speeches as appropriate by grade level. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each name, date, or title, and circle each word or phrase that explains why a selection matters or how it should be presented. Use your marks to connect background knowledge to respectful recitation.

Preparing a Meaningful Recitation

1. Reciting a significant poem or speech is more than reading words aloud. A prepared speaker helps listeners notice ideas, images, and changes in feeling. For example, a historical speech may use repeated phrases to unite a crowd, while a poem may use line breaks to slow a thought. Before performing, learn who wrote the piece, when it was shared, and why it mattered. This background helps you choose a respectful voice and explain the selection's purpose to an audience.

2. Frederick Douglass delivered his 1852 speech "What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?" in Rochester, New York. Its argument challenges the nation to confront slavery and its promises of liberty. If you recite a short passage from it, do not rush its serious claims. Pause at punctuation, stress words that name ideals or contradictions, and keep your pace steady. Your delivery should make the argument clear, not turn a solemn topic into entertainment.

3. Maya Angelou's poem "Still I Rise," first published in 1978, speaks with confidence against oppression. Its speaker answers hurtful treatment by declaring strength and survival. When reciting a poem like this one, let the voice follow the speaker's changing attitude. A firm volume can show confidence, and a brief pause can give an important image time to land. Practice until the words are accurate, but do not copy another performer's exact style. Your own choices should serve the poem's meaning and its audience.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What three kinds of background information should you learn before you recite a poem or speech?

2. How can repeated phrases and line breaks affect listeners during a recitation?

3. What does Douglass's speech ask the nation to confront?

4. Name two actions a reciter should avoid, based on the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a significant poem or speech approved for class. Write the source and two to four complete sentences you will recite, then recite them aloud using at least one purposeful pause, change in volume, or change in pace; add one sentence explaining how your delivery choice fits the selection's meaning.

ANSWER KEY

Voices With Purpose

GRADE 8 · 8.P.CP.2.e

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each name, date, or title, and circle each word or phrase that explains why a selection matters or how it should be presented. Use your marks to connect background knowledge to respectful recitation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What three kinds of background information should you learn before you recite a poem or speech?	**Learn who wrote it, when it was shared, and why it mattered.**
2	How can repeated phrases and line breaks affect listeners during a recitation?	**Repeated phrases can unite a crowd, and line breaks can slow a thought.**
3	What does Douglass's speech ask the nation to confront?	**It asks the nation to confront slavery and the conflict between slavery and its promises of liberty.**
4	Name two actions a reciter should avoid, based on the passage.	**A reciter should not rush serious claims, turn a solemn topic into entertainment, or copy another performer's exact style.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Source: Abraham Lincoln, "Gettysburg Address" (1863). Recitation: "Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure." Delivery note: I will slow down at "all men are created equal" and pause after the first sentence to emphasize Lincoln's ideals and the war's test.

Accept equivalent answers that accurately use the passage. For the performance task, accept an appropriate significant selection, an accurate two-to-four-sentence recitation, and a delivery explanation clearly connected to meaning.